our fourfooted friends

Animal Rescue League of Boston • Fall 1992

Animal Rescue League of Boston

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Our Fourfooted Friends

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World Society for the Protection of Animals
Boston, MA (Regional Office)

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COVER:

Best Buddy — Kevin J. Murphy of Boston won second prize in the League's animal photo contest for this picture of his dog, "Bud."

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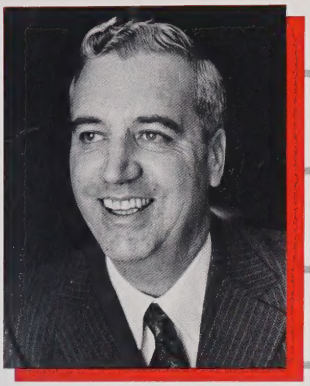


Arthur G. Slade, *President*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Improving the Adoption Odds

Humane organizations such as the League have a variety of services, and more and more we are finding the need and desire to consider the use of new approaches to solve old problems in a continuing effort to improve and enhance these services.

One such primary service is the placement of pets for adoption in new homes and the overall assurance of a happy and successful placement that results in a permanent adoption. As new techniques develop and improve, it behooves us to incorporate them, as much as possible, into our adoption services. One such area of development is the study and evaluation of animal behavior. In two articles in this issue, substantial reference is made to animal behavior, and especially bad behavior, as a primary cause of pet animal problems and a major cause of euthanasia of these animals in animal control and humane society shelters. Great strides have been made in the health care and nutrition needs of our pets which have improved their health and extended their life expectancy. Correspondingly little effort has been put into the study and correction of behavior flaws which seem to be on the rise as our life-styles and social patterns change. So too, we must give more consideration to the behavioral patterns and life-styles of our pets. They tend to be alone more of the time, living accommodations are smaller and closer together and the pace of life in an uncertain economy is much more stressful. These and many other factors impact on pets.

We see an increasing need to play a role in this area of animal behavior as it relates to our dealing with the public and our selection of the most appropriate animals for adoption.

Historically, many humane societies have been reactive to the problem, but perhaps the time has come to be more proactive. In this sense, we need to explore the possibility of counseling pet owners who call or come to our shelters to surrender pets because they have a "Behavior Problem," rather than assuming there is no hope of correcting or changing the bad behavior. If such counseling is successful it can eliminate the need for many animals to be given up. We also can learn valuable lessons for the other end of our services in helping us evaluate what constitutes the most important criteria for adopting animals into new homes.

We plan to embark on the use of more behavior evaluation techniques in the selection of animals for adoption. It may be that there are animals who could be made more suitable for adoption with a minimal amount of behavior training and evaluation. This could be especially true with dogs and mature cats. By the same token, improved behavior evaluation may be able to detect animals who harbor potentially undesirable traits which would formerly not surface until later in their development and then be the cause of an unsuccessful placement with an eventual return to the shelter.

We will comment more in the future about the success of this new program, but it is exciting to contemplate the possible improvements in pet care resulting from more happy, permanent homes.

Gone With the Wind

League joins effort to help animals left without homes or families in the wake of Hurricane Andrew.

When Hurricane Andrew's 160-mile-an-hour winds swept through southern Florida on Monday, August 24th, leveling buildings, uprooting palm trees and flattening orange groves, not only did 200,000 people lose their homes, but also an estimated 50,000 animals lost both their homes and their families.

In the days that followed, Dade County's animal shelters were inundated with newly homeless dogs, cats, horses, birds and other pets, many of them suffering from injuries or dehydration, or sick from drinking contaminated water.

As word of the dire conditions in Florida spread, people from around the country were eager to do whatever they could to help, and New Englanders were no exception. After contacting Pat Hennings of the Humane Society of Greater Miami to determine how best to be of assistance, the League established a Disaster Relief Fund to aid the animal victims of the hurricane. Response to this appeal was generous and heartwarming, enabling the League to dispatch both emergency supplies and manpower to aid in the relief effort. Animal control officers from towns all over Massachusetts supported the effort, acting as drop-off sites for donations.

The Humane Society of Greater Miami, which had one of their six shelters destroyed by the storm, indicated that their immediate needs were not food for the animals, but equipment and products to prevent diseases, to disinfect the shelters, and to bathe and treat the animals. Evacuated residents were not allowed to bring their pets with them to the shelters, and many of the animals had been wandering the streets and surviving by eating garbage, since they were separated from their owners.

At 9 a.m. on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend, Thomas White, the League's director of operations, and Bob Walsh, Dedham shelter manager, set off for Florida in a large rented truck, filled with emergency relief supplies. Their cargo included 20 cases of bowls, 250 collars and leashes, gallons of flea and tick dip, shampoo and spray, surgical gloves, 30 fiberglass animal carriers, 60 gallons of concentrated disinfectant cleaner, trash bags, and cases of electrolyte replacement fluid for treatment of dehydrated animals.

Driving straight through, they arrived in Miami Sunday afternoon. After meeting with Curt Ransom of the American Humane Association, which was coordinating animal relief efforts, they unloaded part of their supplies at the Humane Society of Greater Miami, but headed south the next day with the bulk of the relief shipment, plus additional supplies of water, to the Krome Disaster Center, near the heart of the ravaged Homestead area, where U.S. Army Reserve Colonel Thelton McCorcle, D.V.M., was operating a MASH unit for animals.

"The devastation we saw on the drive down was incredible — flattened orange groves and stretches of bare trees with their branches strewn with linen and articles of clothing. It went on for acres and acres," Thom White recalls.

Arriving at Krome, they found stray animals everywhere, tied to fences and cars, and anything else available. Owned animals were being treated on a makeshift examining table created by setting a formica door on top of two kennel carriers. A steady stream of people — some 150 a day — were bringing their animals there for treatment of illness and injuries. The unit was also collecting stray animals and coordinating efforts to reunite them with their owners through the AHA headquarters set up at the Dade County Animal Control office in Miami, "but they didn't even have any kennels or carriers to hold the stray animals," Bob Walsh explains.

In addition, over 100 horses, plus a llama and some goats, were being cared for in an adjacent barn and corral, operated by the Horse Protection Association of Florida which had opened what was intended to be a small facility, just shortly before the hurricane. "People were pulling in and out of this area all day, looking for their horses," Bob Walsh recalls, "and you could see how visibly upset those were whose search was unsuccessful."

After unloading the remainder of their supplies, Thom and Bob spent the rest of the day under Dr. McCorcle's supervision assisting in

the treatment of injured animals, and bathing and dipping dirty and flea-infested dogs in bathtubs salvaged from destroyed houses. All of the animals were also being vaccinated by Dr. McCorcle to protect them from distemper and other diseases.

The next morning was spent in Miami, unloading a truckload of dog and cat food that had arrived from California. Working with the AHA officials in Miami were representatives from the Humane Society of the United States, and the International Fund for Animal Welfare, which had provided communications systems including portable phones and computers. AHA and HSUS were coordinating lost and found operations, with people who were seeking lost pets coming into their headquarters to view photos of pets that had been dispatched to various shelters. The Greater Miami Humane Society, whose shelters were constantly filling up, was identifying and photographing pets as they came in, and sending the photos to the animal control office, accompanied by information on where the animal was currently located.

In the afternoon, when they returned to Krome, they found that Dr. McCorcle had already treated over 150 animals that day, many of them with open wounds and lacerations. Before leaving the next morning, Thom and Bob realized that large vehicles were badly needed, so the League rented the truck for an additional week for use in Florida, and the two flew back to Boston.

There is still much to be done, and the League will continue to use donations to the Disaster Relief Fund to purchase and transport emergency supplies as needed to the affected areas. Dr. McCorcle, Pat Hennings, and other humane officials overseeing the relief effort have promised to keep the League informed concerning the areas of greatest need.

Summarizing their experiences, Thom White and Bob Walsh reported: "Everywhere in the storm-ravaged areas, humane society workers, veterinarians, and private citizens are working tirelessly to bring relief to the thousands of animals still in need of care. Everything was happening so fast, and there was so much to be done, that at times we felt we were just scratching the surfaces."

Things were beginning to come together, however. "Just as we were leaving, a local developer who had built a new animal hospital that was standing vacant in Miami volunteered to lease the facility to AHA for $1 a month, to be used as a relief headquarters, where triage, foster care programs, and lost and found services could be centralized," they reported.

Top right: Brian Manning and Thom White load emergency relief supplies for the animals left homeless and suffering in the wake of Hurricane Andrew. Bottom left: Bob Walsh distributes leashes and collars to pet owners who brought their animals to Krome Disaster Center in Florida for medical treatment by Colonel Thelton McCorcle (bottom right), a U.S. Army Reserve veterinarian in charge of the MASH unit for animals.

Anyone wishing to join the effort to help the animal victims of Hurricane Andrew should mail their donations to:

Disaster Relief Fund
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265
Boston, MA 02117

Pet Health Highlights

News from the AVMA Meeting

The nation's veterinarians gathered in Boston in August for the 129th annual meeting of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). New developments in a broad spectrum of areas ranging from aviary medicine to zoology were reported in over 300 presentations, many of which were of direct interest to pet owners. Here are just a few of the highlights:

Raccoon Rabies Update

The state of New Jersey reported 983 cases of rabies in 1991, and 400 cases in the first six months of this year, according to Faye E. Sorhage, V.M.D., M.P.H., a member of the League's veterinary staff from 1980 to 1982, and currently a member of the veterinary public health project at the New Jersey Department of Health. Most of the infected animals were raccoons, but 53 cases of cat rabies have been reported in New Jersey since the raccoon rabies epidemic entered the state in 1989.

New Jersey's rabies control program has included an intensive educational program for all local health officials, animal control officers, and veterinarians; quarantine of domestic animals exposed to rabies; and the vaccination of over 320,000 dogs and cats, since the epidemic began, in state and municipal sponsored rabies clinics, some 700 of which are held each year. In addition, a field trial with an oral rabies vaccine, used successfully in Europe to control fox rabies, is being conducted in the southern part of the state to test its efficacy in raccoons. The effectiveness of the New Jersey program can be measured by the absence of any cases of rabies in dogs or human beings, Dr. Sorhage said.

Flea Problem Growing

Despite more effective insecticides and research into better strategies to eliminate the pests, America's flea control problem seems to keep growing, according to two experts in the field. American pet owners spend more than $1 billion a year on flea insecticides, preventatives, exterminator services, and medical care for flea-stricken dogs and cats, "but we're no further ahead than we were 100 years ago in terms of eliminating the flea," said James C. Blakemore, D.V.M. of Purdue University. Michael W. Dryden, D.V.M., Ph.D., of Kansas State University agreed with this conclusion, citing the popularity of shag carpeting as one of the causative factors, describing it as "a perfect environment for the development of fleas."

Former League veterinarian Dr. Faye E. Sorhage reported on efforts to combat rabies in New Jersey's raccoon population.

Other factors include the growth of the pet population, especially cats. Pet owners find it harder to control fleas on cats because they are difficult to bathe, and reluctant to stand still for the application of spray insecticides. In addition, the human population has been growing fastest in regions of the country that have the warm, humid climate in which fleas thrive, the speakers noted.

Helping Newborn Puppies and Kittens

Better pet health care management can prevent tragic deaths from fading puppy and kitten syndrome, which can claim up to 40% of newborns within the first 12 weeks of life, according to John Hoskins, D.V.M. of Louisiana State University. Like human infants, puppies and kittens are more susceptible to viral and bacterial infections than adult animals, he said.

"There are very few things people can do well at home for a sick puppy or kitten, and when you're dealing with an infant, the illness can progress very quickly. The slower people are in taking the pet to a veterinarian, the less likely it becomes that anyone will be able to help," he said. A veterinarian should be consulted as soon as pet owners notice signs of weakness, crying, failure to eat, vomiting or diarrhea in a puppy or kitten, he concluded.

Bad Behavior: Modify or Medicate?

More than 90% of dog owners complain about one or more behavior problems, according to Robert P. Anderson, D.V.M. of the University of Minnesota. Top behavior complaints reported in his study were dogs jumping on people (mentioned by 55% of owners surveyed) and excessive barking (49%). Those most likely to seek help, however, are the owners of aggressive pets, according to a separate report by Ilana R. Reisner, D.V.M. of Cornell University, who said that aggression against owners in dogs usually results from a natural canine tendency called dominance aggression, characterized by dogs asserting themselves to gain a higher social position in the family.

Most dominant aggressive dogs are males, and castration is one of the recommended treatments, according to Victoria Voith, D.V.M., an applied animal behavior consultant from Spring Branch, TX. "Castration alone, however, may not completely suppress the dog's dominant tendencies. Behavioral techniques are generally necessary as well," she said.

Aggression problems in cats rarely result from anything the owner is doing wrong, according to a report by Katherine Houpt, V.M.D., Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. "Cats aren't like dogs. You don't train them," she explained. Instead, cats may become aggressive due to a physical problem, like a brain tumor, for example, or they may redirect aggression aimed at an out-of-reach object (a bird outside the window) toward the owner. "Playful cats may also be aggressive if they have not learned to retract their claws or inhibit bites."

Continued on page 15

Out for a summer stroll are Curtis Walker, and the camp horse "Spirit."

By Rachel Parady

A SUMMER PLACE

Situated on Squeteague Harbor in Cataumet, Massachusetts, the Animal Friends Summer School is an ideal place for children (and counselors!) to spend a summer's day. The camp was established in the summer of 1947 on Amrita Island by a grant from the Baxendale Memorial Foundation. Only fifteen children attended the first session of the school, just a fraction of the number that overtakes the grounds each morning during the summer today. Most of their activities at the camp centered around the humane care of animals, much as it still does today. However, the attendance and daily activities of the summer school have changed over the years although the basic governing principles have remained the same.

Christine Rymsha, 7, learns some lessons from the wise old owl.

Animal Friends Summer School

Continued

Every day of the two sessions over one hundred children race from their cars — with barely a good-bye for Mom and Dad — to play an impromptu game of tag or talk to their favorite counselor. At the ringing of the bell, however, the camp day begins with the campers rushing pell-mell to attempt to form a fairly symmetrical circle around the flagpole. Cries of "Me! Me!" fill the air as each child eagerly begs to be chosen to assist with the raising of the flag. After patriotically reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and singing "My Country 'Tis Of Thee," the whole camp forms a single file "train" and, with our best sound effects, heads into Baxendale Hall for songs.

No matter how tired everyone feels, song period is enough to put a smile on anyone's face. Just watching the campers, and even the rookie counselors, attempting to master the intricate hand motions of "The Austrian Song" is enough to send even the most homesick camper into gales of laughter. And rousing versions of "Rise and Shine" and "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" are enough to get everyone's blood pumping.

Sixth-graders from the Mary E. Curley School in Boston attended a special pre-season session at the summer school.

Thomas Walsh, 10, meets a green iguana visiting the camp from Wild Again rehabilitation center.

After songs the whole camp is full of extra energy which is put to good use during activity period. For activity, one of the counselors chooses a game that the whole camp can participate in. Games such as Blob Tag and Sharks and Seaweed are always favorites with the campers. Many of the activities give the campers a chance to test their skill in running, throwing and catching, and it's always great to see the camper's skills improve over the course of the summer.

The next part of the day consists of class time which can be a lot of fun for both the campers and the counselors as common interests are shared between the two. The variety of classes offered is sometimes overwhelming, but it gives the campers a chance to try everything

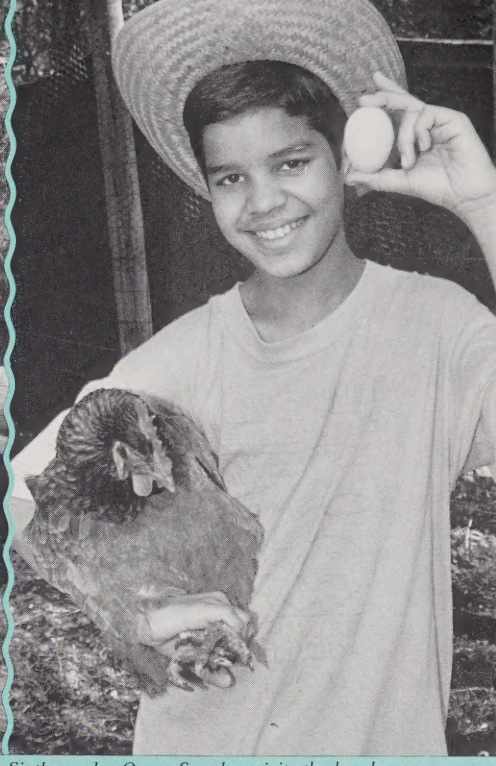
from making a bunny box in the woodshop to learning the proper care and handling of a gerbil. Often the children are faced with some tough mental and physical challenges during class time. Many of the campers entering the Horse Care class are terrified at the thought of riding a horse, but after trying it once they rush home and ask for riding lessons. Classes such as Group Adventures stress teamwork while others like Macrame focus more on arts. Still others teach the children to care for certain kinds of animals from pigs to mice. With such a wide range of classes to choose from, it's no wonder the children need to think long and hard about their choice for the next week!

Sports break provides the campers with the opportunity to try their hand at different sports ranging from horseshoes to basketball. Good sportsmanship is stressed, but a lot of healthy competition is always present. Yelling often fills the air as the campers enthusiastically attempt to get a counselor out in Newcomb or as they cheer their teammate around the bases on the whiffleball field. No matter what the sport, both the campers and counselors work together to try to lead their team to victory.

The last activity of the day is the special event period. Guest speakers, such as the park ranger who speaks about the "Canal Critters" and everyone's favorite, Mr. Goux with his songs and stories, lecture to the children on their favorite subjects. Sometimes even one of the counselors speaks about a hobby or interest such as flying, water safety or soccer. No matter what the topic, the campers are always eager to learn about something new!

Through their camp experiences, the children learn about animals and the environment and have tons of fun, but they also learn a lot about themselves. At the end of the summer, many leave camp with new friends and often greater confidence in their own abilities. Some may even say, as camper Andrew Bonniker did, "I love this place! I can't wait to come back next summer." And that's really what camp's all about.

Curley School students Latanya and Keyanna Smith visit with the "mane" attraction.



Sixth-grader Oscar Sanchez visits the hen house.

Andrew Noonan, 6, delivers a snack to Mildred the cow.

Matt Deitch, 5, feeds the two little pigs.

PET SHOW '92

Over sixty pets of all sizes and shapes, accompanied by their young owners, competed for prizes at the League's 40th Annual Pet Show, held Saturday, July 25, at Nye Field in North Falmouth. Here are some of the winning contestants and their proud owners, all of whom were honored for knowledge of proper pet care techniques and responsible pet ownership.

1. *"Ben," owned by Carolyn Crews, 9, took first prize in the boy dog competition, and went on to capture "Best of Show" honors.*

2. *Andrew Colonna, 10, hugs "Guido" who placed second, winning a red ribbon in the cat category.*

3. *The "top cat" of the day was "Rosy," proudly posing with owner Alison McDonald, 8.*

4. *It's time to relax for Chris Landers-Cawley, 9, after his hamster, "Uncle Buck," won second prize in the miscellaneous pets with four feet competition.*

5. *"Jim," a pet rat owned by Scott Parolski, 11, tied for the blue ribbon in the miscellaneous group.*

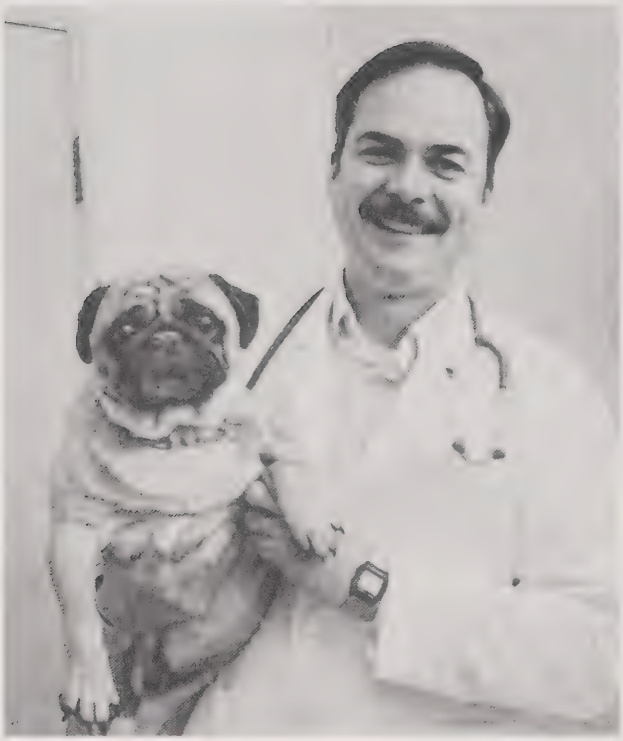
6. *Sharing first prize honors in the miscellaneous category was "California," a rabbit owned by Julia Markoff, 7, accompanied here by her friend Kristen Manganini, 7.*

7. *"Clancy," a golden retriever owned by Courtney Clegg, 8, took home a red ribbon in the Best Tailwagger competition.*

8. *Kevin Maikath, 11, is proud of his labrador retriever, "Skeeter," who won second prize in the boy dog group.*

9. *The blue-ribbon puppy "Buster" gets a hug from proud owner Courtney Gill, 12.*

10. *"Ben" and owner Carolyn Crews receive the Best of Show trophy from judges (l to r) Thomas White, director of operations at the League; Arthur G. Slade, League president; Dr. Carlton E. Buttrick, past president; and Edward Powers, education coordinator.*



A Veterinary Update:

When Your Pet Gets "D" in Deportment

By Edward A. Leonard, D.V.M.

Behavior problems in dogs and cats are one of the leading causes of euthanasia of healthy pets each year. The most common complaints include pet aggression, destructive behavior, excessive barking and inappropriate elimination habits.

Some pet owners give up on their animals too quickly; others put up with bad behavior for years until their tolerance is exhausted, assuming that nothing can be done, but the truth is that many of these problems can be treated, or prevented. Veterinarians from around the country who gathered in Boston for the recent annual meeting of the American Veterinary Medical Association discussed a variety of approaches to these problems, guided by the principle that veterinarians need to help people prevent and treat pet behavior problems if they are to improve the quality of life for animals, and prevent unnecessary pet abandonment or euthanasia (see story on page 6).

Veterinarians have traditionally diagnosed and treated medical problems in animals. Today, there is a growing awareness that animals, just like people, can also be affected by emotional upheaval and psychological stress. With this awareness has come the emergence of a new professional specialization — veterinarians who focus on animal behavior problems.

Applying knowledge from the fields of psychology and psychiatry, neurology and physiology, and many other disciplines, veterinarians who specialize in pet behavior problems can bring new insights and perspectives to old problems. Badly behaved pets may suffer from separation anxiety, depression, or phobias, but their problem behavior can also be the result of latent medical disorders such as thyroid gland imbalance, epileptic seizure activity or simple urinary bladder inflammation. Veterinarians who are pet behavior specialists are trained to distinguish emotional causes from physical, and investigate medical problems which may be causing behavioral disturbances, or even behavior problems which may be the first sign of medical illness.

Once the problem has been identified, there are generally two approaches to treatment. The first is the application of behavior modification techniques, which usually involve both changes in the pet's environment, and in the way in which the pet and owner interact.

The second approach which may be employed is the appropriate use of psychoactive medications, used as a complement to behavior modification techniques, never as the sole means of therapy. These medications, if indicated, are used simply to accelerate the benefits of behavior modification, and then withdrawn. Recent developments in animal drug treatments were described at the AVMA meeting by Dr. Nicholas Dodman, director of the behavior clinic at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine (see p. 15), who cautioned that "pet owners should never use drugs as a substitute for behavioral therapy, but rather as an adjunct to it."

Help Is Available

The League is pleased to announce that Dr. Stefanie Schwartz, a veterinarian specializing in pet behavior problems who has practiced small animal medicine since 1984, is now available as a pet behavior consultant through the League's veterinary outpatient clinic. In addition to treating existing behavior problems, Dr. Schwartz is also available to advise new pet owners on ways to prevent bad habits from developing. An appointment for a ½ hour consultation at the clinic can be arranged by calling 527-1128.

Giving Animals a Brake!

Good drivers are usually alert to changing road conditions, and signs warning of sharp curves, or lanes ending, but unfortunately even cautious drivers often fail to react to signs indicating that deer, livestock or other animals may be in the area.

The result is that 187,000 collisions involving animals occur each year in this country, causing 1,700 injuries or fatalities, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

While many accidents result from drivers swerving to avoid a dog or cat or other small animal on the road, large animals pose the greatest danger. Depending on the area of the country, drivers can encounter moose, horses, cows, or even alligators, on the road.

Deer, however, are the animals most likely to be involved in collisions, especially in the eastern and northeastern states. In some areas, more deer are killed by cars than by hunters. In Pennsylvania, for example, 7,000 deer roadkills were reported in just the first two months of this year. As nocturnal animals, deer are most active when driver visibility is poorest. They are also attracted to the dense brush that borders roadways and react unpredictably when startled.

As their natural habitat is nibbled away by development, deer and, increasingly in New England, moose are appearing in populated areas. Fall is a particularly dangerous driving time since it is mating season for many large animals, and they are more active.

The best way to avoid an animal collision is to practice good, defensive driving in a well-maintained vehicle, according to Charles Butler, manager of AAA Driver Safety Services, who offers the following tips in a recent article in *AAA World*:

• At night, drive with high beams on as much as possible, looking for an orange or yellow reflection from an animal's eyes, which is your first warning.

• If there is no oncoming traffic, drive as close to the center of the road as possible; on a multi-lane highway, stay as far to the left of your lane as you can.

• Heed roadside warning signs, and reduce speed.

• Search both sides of the road for animals, or indications of animals, and be aware of your maneuvering options.

• If you spot an animal in the distance, slow down, tap your horn lightly to alert but not frighten the animal, and flick your headlights from bright to dim repeatedly, to break the animal's hypnosis.

• Be mentally prepared in order to avoid an instinctive, but wrong, reaction.

"When drivers spot an animal on the road, they instinctively brake hard, or swerve to avoid a collision." Both reactions are highly dangerous, according to Butler. "By braking hard, you risk a rear-end collision, or locking the wheels and losing control of your car. A sudden swerve can put you in the path of oncoming traffic."

His advice is reinforced in "Animal Awareness Driving," a driver safety training video released by Autumn Productions, Inc. which warns against braking hard or swerving and losing control of your vehicle. Instead, they offer the following advice:

• If you cannot steer off the road and there is oncoming traffic, stay in your lane.

• Squeeze down (do not slam) on your brake to reduce speed as much as possible.

• If a collision is unavoidable, release the brake just before impact which will allow the front end of the car to rise. Applying the brakes hard causes the front end of the car to dip, which increases the chances that the animal will come over the hood and through the windshield.

If you do hit an animal, park your car as far off the road as possible, turn on your warning flashers to alert oncoming traffic, and get out cautiously to evaluate the situation. Notify the local police or state highway authorities just as soon as possible. Do not simply drive off and leave an injured animal in the roadway, both for the sake of the animal whose injuries may be treatable, and for the sake of other motorists who could get in an accident swerving to avoid the animal.

Deer are the animals most likely to be injured in roadway collisions. Here League officers transport an injured deer to a treatment facility.

NEWSFRONT

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

HEARING DOG WINS NATIONAL AWARD

A two-year-old sheltie/shepherd named "Echo" was honored as the Hearing Dog of the Year at the 11th annual Delta Society Conference, held recently in Montreal in conjunction with the 6th International Conference on Human/Animal Interaction. Trained and certified at Red Acre Farm Hearing Dog Center in Stow, Echo won national recognition for her extreme sensitivity in responding to the special needs of her visually impaired and deaf owner, Joan Case of Weare, NH, who said: "She is my eyes and my ears. I can't imagine my life without Echo."

TAKING A STAND FOR THE BIRDS

A Braintree youngster was honored recently as a "newsmaker" by the *Quincy Patriot Ledger* after his actions saved the lives of birds endangered by bulldozing. When Brian Wilcox, 12, discovered a nest with dead baby birds on the ground near trees being felled by a bulldozer on the grounds of the Braintree Elks' Lodge, he picketed the site with signs that read: "Stop the Elks" and "Save the Trees and Birds." The Elks responded to his protest by agreeing to put up bird houses and bird feeders, and relocate nests that were endangered. Brian's mother was not surprised at her son's actions, since he frequently cares for lost or hurt animals. "I can't tell you how many times I've driven home and found myself at the Animal Rescue League with a lost puppy," she said.

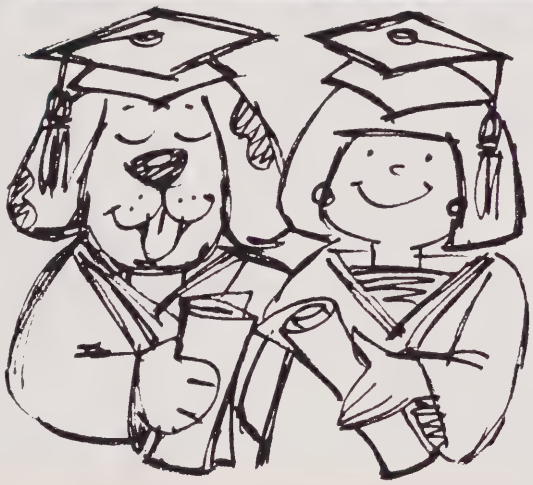
TURTLES SAVED FROM THE SOUP

Fifty turtles were rescued from New York City Chinatown markets last summer by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The ASPCA turned the turtles over to the New York Turtle and Tortoise Society for care and rehabilitation, and eventual return to their natural habitat. Turtle meat is a delicacy in Asian markets, selling for as much as $10 a pound, but the law prohibits selling any turtle under four inches, and does not allow food concerns to sell turtles because they may carry salmonella germs.

DUCKLINGS MAKE DEBUT AT THE OPERA HOUSE

League agents Steve Giuva and Bill Menton place ducklings in a carrying box after rescuing them from the roof of the old Boston Opera House on Tremont Street. A dozen ducklings, born on the roof of the closed theater and abandoned by their mother, were spotted by a neighbor whose apartment overlooks the theater. The ducklings were taken to the New England Wildlife Center in Hingham where they will be cared for until they are old enough to be released.

HEARING DOG CENTER MARKS DEAF AWARENESS WEEK



Red Acre Farm Hearing Dog Center held an open house Sunday, September 20, to celebrate the start of Deaf Awareness Week. Located in Stow, MA, the Center trains dogs rescued from animal shelters to act as "ears" for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals. The open house featured kennel tours, hearing dog demonstrations, and a graduation ceremony for recently certified teams of hearing dogs and their owners.

MILLIONS CALL FOR BULLFIGHT BAN

As tourists from around the world gathered to view the Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain, this summer, the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) presented Mayor Pascual Maragall of Barcelona with a petition demanding a worldwide end to bullfighting, signed by 2,424,000 opponents to this slaughter, from 63 countries.

More than 30,000 bulls are tortured and killed in Spain's arenas each year, according to WSPA, and thousands of horses are gored by the terrified bulls. Moreover, the problem is spreading to other parts of the world, according to John Walsh, WSPA international projects director. "This industry should be dying because of the public revulsion. . . . Instead, bullfights are being exported to all parts of the world, including the United States, in a cynical attempt to make money from the spectacle of animals being bloodied and beaten in the arenas." Walsh cited as examples a new event in Mexico called the "Novillado," in which young boys are taught to kill calves; the recent repeal of a 60-year-old Spanish law which prohibited minors from attending bullfights; and the growing popularity in the U.S. of so-called "bloodless" bullfights, in which animals are not killed, but are subjected to stress and suffering.

WSPA also sponsored an international demonstration against bullfighting in Madrid on July 18, and urged members of Olympic teams and committees to avoid the bullfights while they were in Spain.

Pet Health Highlights

Continued from page 6.

For owners of pets that soil the carpets during thunderstorms, or become destructive when left alone, recent breakthroughs in animal drug treatments to complement behavior therapy may provide solutions, according to Nicholas H. Dodman, B.V.M.S., M.R.C.V.S., director of the behavior clinic, Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Dodman said that drug therapy available today to veterinarians is much more comprehensive than past drug therapy, which relied upon tranquilizers to control aggressive behavior. New medications, similar to those used by people, are more effective, and have fewer side effects. Medicines being studied for possible use in pets include drugs prescribed for people to reduce anxiety, which may benefit animals suffering from thunderstorm phobias, and medications used to treat obsessive-compulsive behavior in people, which may help dogs that exhibit lick granuloma — compulsive licking of lower limbs until they ulcerate.

In order for drug treatment to be successful, he cautioned, pets should also undergo behavior therapy with a trained veterinarian.

House-Training Your Puppy

Billy and Jennifer have a new friend at home, a cute three-month-old puppy named Patches. Their family adopted Patches from the local animal shelter. This lively puppy is a mixed breed (mutt) with black and tan fur and a long, wagging tail. It was love at first sight between the puppy and the children.

Once the puppy was brought home, their parents explained how Patches was to be house-trained, which is training a pet to go to the bathroom outside or in a designated area. "The puppy is like a small baby and needs to be taught where to sleep and eat, and where to go to the bathroom," said Mom.

"She can sleep on my bed!" exclaimed Jennifer. But her mother told her that Patches should have her own bed, which could be an old blanket or rug placed in a basket in a warm area. There could even be a ticking clock or radio nearby so the puppy would not get lonely.

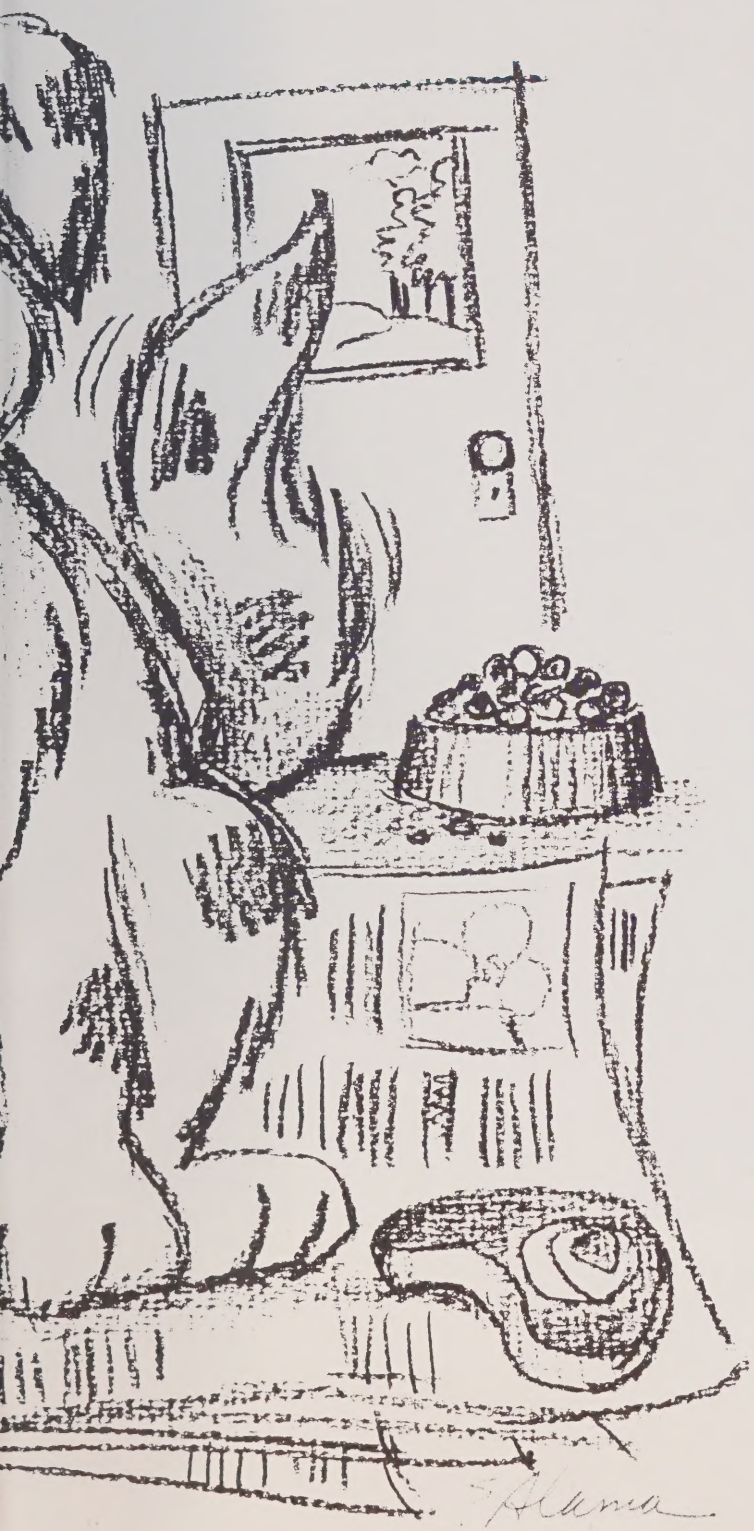
"Plus her own food and water dish," said Billy.

"That's right," Dad answered, "and we should show Patches where she can go to the bathroom and not dirty the rugs and furniture."

The family decided to place Patches' bed in a quiet corner of the kitchen. They blocked off this area so that Patches would not be able to roam around the house when no one was watching her. They placed newspapers on the floor just in case the puppy went to the bathroom. This would be Patches' bed and bathroom area until she got bigger.

"Patches will sleep on the blanket and go to the bathroom on the newspapers," Jennifer explained.

"That is right, Jennifer. The puppy will use the newspapers as her bathroom since she does not want to soil her own bed," said Mom. "We will cut down on the amount of paper we use so



she learns to use a small area until she is fully trained to go outside."

The family praised Patches when she used the newspapers. She was quick to learn this new lesson.

"Good Patches, good girl!" the children would say to praise their new puppy. Children should praise their pet when it does the right thing and scold it (NO!) when the pet does something wrong. It is important to be consistent and firm when a pet is being house-trained. This way puppies can learn from their mistakes. Scolding should only be done when you catch the puppy doing something wrong. If you do it after the fact, then the puppy will become very confused and will not understand why it is being scolded. You should only use your voice to scold your dog, never hit it.

Next a puppy can learn to use the outside ground as her bathroom. It is best to start the outside training after your puppy is vaccinated by the veterinarian. These vaccinations prevent sickness in dogs such as rabies, distemper, parvovirus, and other illnesses that young animals can catch.

Patches had already received her vaccinations so Jennifer and Billy were able to start training her to go to the bathroom outside right away. After each meal, before bedtime, and after naps and exercise, they brought Patches outside to her special spot.

Patches caught on to her outside bathroom schedule and was praised by the children every time she went outside. "Good Patches, good!" Jennifer and Billy would praise their puppy.

Soon Patches went outside more often. When she started sniffing around the door the children knew it was time for her to go outside. Patches sometimes would have accidents in the house, but the children learned to be patient and to love their puppy. And what a happy family they became!

PETS IN THE PICTURE

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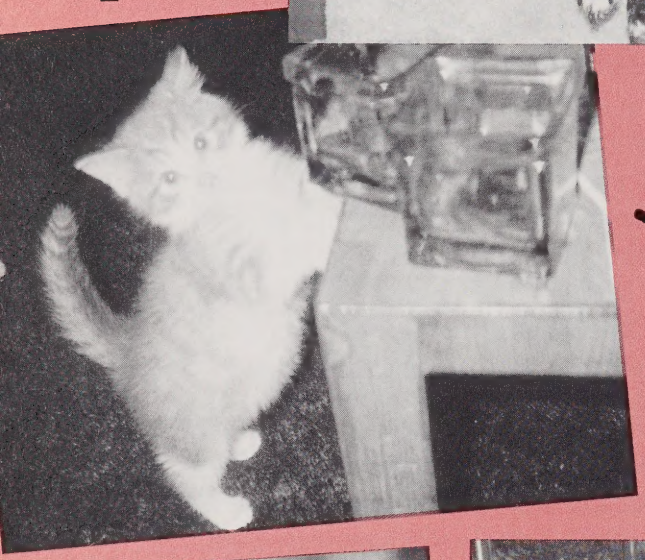

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1 "Vincent (Van Dog)" (so named because he is missing an ear) and "Champ" reside with Cherry and Kip Fenton of Sharon, who adopted Champ from the League's Pine Ridge Center three years ago. They write: "We wanted to share this photo of our dogs with you, and thank you for doing such fine work. Champ is a wonderful and affectionate dog. We are grateful we found him, and can give him a good home. He is a gem!"

2 "Tucker" tests her table-climbing skills in her new home with Donna Ruane of Boston, who adopted the kitten last spring from the Boston shelter.

3 Sister Monica Elmer of Orleans shares this photo of "Alfie" graduating from dog obedience school.

4 "Here is 'Spencer' (right) enjoying the view of the great outdoors with his buddy 'Timothy,' " writes Natalie Titcomb of Sebago Lake, ME, who adopted Spencer from the League last May.

5 "He is great fun, and we love him dearly," writes Sally Walker of Boston, who adopted "Wiley" last summer and reports that he is adjusting "wonderfully" to his new surroundings.

6 "Nacho" thinks he's hot stuff, and so does owner Sharon Alama of Allston who adopted the orange "Morris look-alike" from the League's Boston shelter in May, 1991, when he was six years old. "I knew we had truly bonded when we discovered our mutual love of green olives," she writes.

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★★★★★★★ **Contribute to the fun!** ★★★★★★★

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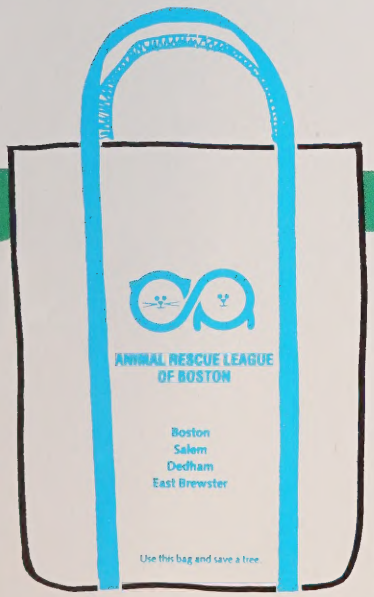

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